

Message Text

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16

ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 JUSE-00 DEAE-00 SS-20 SP-03 MMS-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7321

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 15906

FOR VANCE FROM MASTERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: OPRED/NARCOTICS: JUSTICE/DEA PROPOSALS

REF: (A) STATE 5186

(B) BANGKOK 14326

1. WE ARE PLEASED THAT IN MOST AREAS REGARDING DEA REGION 16 PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS AND LOCATIONS WE ARE IN AGREEMENT. THANKS TO THE HIGH CALIBRE OF THE DEA PERSONNEL ASSIGNED HERE, NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION WORK HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT EFFICIENTLY AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION BY THE RTG CENTRAL NARCOTICS BOARD AND ALL THAI ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

2. AT THE SAME TIME THERE ARE DEFINITE LIMITS ON HOW MANY PEOPLE WE AND THE THAI CAN ABSORB AND USE EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT CREATING POLITICAL PROBLEMS. OUR CONCLUSIONS CONCERNING ADDITIONAL DEA PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS IN REGION 16 (REFTEL B) WERE REACHED AFTER A MOST THOROUGH STUDY OF THE SITUATION AS IT EXISTS ON THE GROUND HERE. IT WAS BASED ON OUR CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL IN THE NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE FIELD WHICH CAN BE ABSORBED EFFECTIVELY AT THIS TIME. YOU WILL APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT THIS MISSION, AS A MATTER OF BASIC POLICY, IS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL AMERICANS IN THAILAND, AND THAT THE DECISION TO ALLOW A LARGE INCREASE IN THE CASE OF DEA -- AT A TIME WHEN ALL OTHER MAJOR ELEMENTS OF

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THE MISSION ARE REDUCING FOLLOWED INTENSE SCRUTINY OF THE ACTUAL

BENEFITS WE WOULD GAIN FROM ANY INCREASE AT ALL. ON THE BASIS OF THIS REVIEW, WE CONCLUDED THAT OUR PRESENT NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EFFORT CANNOT, REPEAT CANNOT, ABSORB A 200 PERCENT INCREASE IN INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS FROM THREE PERSONS TO NINE.

3. THEREFORE, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE INCREASE IN THE INTELLIGENCE UNIT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THREE ANALYSTS. WE SUGGEST THAT ONE YEAR AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE LAST OF THE THREE FOR WHOM WE HAVE ALREADY GIVEN OUR CONCURRENCE WE REVIEW THE NEED FOR FURTHER INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS. AT THAT TIME, AFTER WE SEE HOW A 100 PERCENT INCREASE IS ABSORBED, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE A DETERMINATION CONCERNING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UNIT AND DECIDE WHETHER AN INCREASE, OR A DECREASE, IS JUSTIFIED.

MASTERS

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